

Granite State Libraries

A Publication of the New Hampshire State Library

Goffstown Public Library connects to patrons with digital services

by Tammy Goss, Social Media & Web Services, Goffstown Public Library



www.youtube.com/goffstownlibrary



While the Library building is closed, we're coming up with new ways to reach our patrons, to provide them with services, and to let them know about the online resources available to them. Staff from Adult, Teen, and Children's departments are producing weekly YouTube videos featuring story times, book talks, how-to, and life skills videos at <https://www.youtube.com/goffstownlibrary>. We're ramping up promotions for our e-library, and a popular way we've done that is by providing a 'takeout menu' listing many of the free offerings - check it out at <https://bit.ly/GPLtakeout2020>. On social media, we're highlighting book suggestions each week from a staff person working at home, ensuring these titles are available on digital platforms. Also, each week we update the many digital offers provided by library partners and keep this website page fresh with new content: www.goffstownlibrary.com/stuck-at-home. During this time we've also found ways to transition previously in-library programs to include online sign-ups, like the 1000 Book Before Kindergarten program, and we're looking forward to encouraging participation online during Children's Book Week 2020.

NH public libraries redefine library service and programming during Covid-19 pandemic

Plaistow Library

Scott Campbell, Assistant Director, Plaistow Public Library

On Tuesday, March 17, in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Plaistow Public Library closed its doors, but the librarians have been hard at work for the community ever since.

Virtual Story Time

One of the most popular programs in any library is the children's story hour, and Plaistow's library is no exception. So, it wasn't long before "Story Time with Miss Jenn" went live on Facebook to the delight of children and parents. Mrs. Dawley has broadcast three story times already and will continue to go live every Thursday morning at 10AM.

On nice days, families may also visit the library's self-guided Story Walk -- 18 stations placed on the library grounds display a full 32-page children's story. A new storybook will be installed soon.

Librarians Still Doing Librarian Things

Meanwhile, a skeleton crew continues to report to the library to work on special projects and answer questions as they always have via phone and e-mail. Support staff have also taken the closure as an opportunity to diligently go through the entire collection, cleaning and adjusting each shelf, updating catalog records, and weeding outdated materials -- a nearly impossible task when the library is open to the public. Of course, the employees on-site practice strict social distancing protocols at all times, while other staffers work on projects from home.

For library patrons desperate for reading materials, each day (weather permitting) librarians put out 2 book-carts full of withdrawn library books. Dozens if not hundreds of books have already been taken home by appreciative readers.

The **Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson** reports that they are circulating State Park Passes and temporary library cards.

Public librarians making a difference in their communities

Amy Lapin, Deputy Director of the **Lebanon Public Libraries**, reports that they are making use of the 3D printer on loan from the NH State Library to make mask extenders. (See photo, below, for an example.) The 3D print project was scaled down by a Lebanon City IT employee to work with the smaller Ultimaker2Go printers.



Scott Campbell, Assistant Director of the **Plaistow Public Library**, reports that on Tuesday, March 17, in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Plaistow Public Library closed its doors, but the librarians have been hard at work for the community ever since.

Most importantly to the crisis at hand, when it became apparent that there was a shortage of face masks, Children's Librarian Jennifer Dawley, along with Library Trustee Chair Jim Peck and his wife Audrey, helped form a Facebook group "Plaistow & Friends Making Masks 4 Heroes." They quickly organized and added members who volunteered to sew masks at home -- and the library is the hub of the production line. Sewers pick up the precut materials from a container at the library's front door, then return their finished masks there for distribution to hospitals and others in need.

On March 29, *The Eagle-Tribune* picked up the story, but that was early on, and the momentum has only grown since. To date, the group is 282 members strong and has produced over 10,000 scrub caps, headbands, shields, and masks. To further aid the mask-making effort, the library also cataloged a sewing machine for extended loan.

Responding to urgent pleas from the New Hampshire Red Cross, the Plaistow Public Library made an exception to its closure policy and held its blood drive as scheduled on March 31st. The Red Cross implemented several safeguards against COVID-19, including maintaining social distancing and taking the temperature of donors beforehand. Assistant Director Scott Campbell received and checked in donors with veteran blood drive volunteer Linda Bettincourt to ensure the drive went as smoothly as possible. The drive yielded 32 units of much-needed blood at a time of critical need.

Plaistow Public Library partners with local access television

On April 21, the Plaistow Public Library partnered with local access television to live broadcast and record a program "Fake News and Coronavirus: What You Need to Know to Stay Safe and Sane."

The amount of information (and misinformation) out there on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is dizzying. We brought in Randall Mikkelsen — a managing editor at Thomson Reuters, former White House reporter, and Plaistow citizen -- for a Facebook Live video discussion as we examined these important issues. He shared tips to help you separate fact from fiction, and help us all to stop the spread of bad information on COVID-19. The video can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/410440259>

Kingston Community Library Reaches Oklahoma!

By Hayley Van-Gils, Youth Services Librarian, Kingston Community Library

Kingston create a “Fitness Forest” on the library trail behind the library



Kingston youth services librarians Hayley Van-Gils and Maureen Kiesel developed the library nature trail into a story walk and fitness trail as the library prepared for closing at the end of March. The “Fitness Forest” has been very popular with families.

“We felt that with the amount of time the children are spending on computers doing school work at the moment, it was important to encourage and inspire children to keep moving and get out into the fresh air! We tried to combine a number of activities to incorporate on our trail so that families could spend a good amount of time together outside, while enjoying fun things to do.” Hayley explained. Maureen created six fitness stations with illustrations of fun movements

like ‘hop on one leg for 10 seconds’ or do ‘10 jumping jacks’. The idea is to keep all members of the family interested to look for the next fitness station, and to read the next page of the story.

Through the New Hampshire librarians listserv, we shared our idea with librarians across the state. The ‘Let’s Move in Libraries’ Facebook page picked it up from New Hampshire and wrote on their page the following:

“In Oklahoma. [Lincoln County Health Department](#) inspired by the Fitness Forest idea we shared from New Hampshire's Kingston Community Library last month. They took this idea & ran with it by placing physical activity signs on four different walking trails in the county.”



We are thrilled to be a platform of inspiration to others, and proud to have such a wonderful community and support network sharing our ideas and accomplishments.

For more information, please visit us or email us at info@kingston-library.org

Gilford Public Library offers remote programming, moves adult nonfiction to BISAC

By Mark Thomas, Teen/Emerging Technologies Librarian, Gilford Public Library

The Gilford Public Library was well-positioned to support the local community when we closed our doors. We leveraged our considerable email newsletter reach, moderate Facebook reach, and other tools, to notify the public that we're here to help bridge the digital divide, offer reference, and connect patrons with remote services. Patrons got in touch with questions about Zoom, Discord, Facebook Live, and many other services they found themselves needing. Over time, patron comfort level with technology has soared, leading to greater participation in remote programming and digital services. Now, with our library beginning guideline-adhering curbside pickup, our catalog has seen unprecedented use by patrons browsing the collection and reserving materials from the comfort of home. We are thrilled to see people learning skills that they will likely use long term, and to see them taking advantage of the excellent resources available.

The collection itself has seen major changes too. Just last year the entire Juvenile Nonfiction section was re-cataloged to a customized BISAC system with no author lettering (still blows our minds). Now, with the doors closed, librarians have been hard at work converting the Adult Nonfiction section too (keeping author lettering). We're hoping that this shift away from the Dewey Decimal System to a color coded, browsing friendly system will help increase access and usability of the collection.

Peterborough Library Project Begins May 2020

By Corinne Chronopoulos, Library Director, Peterborough Town Library

The Town of Peterborough, the 1833 Society and the Library Trustees have announced the library will break ground June 1, 2020. The most recent effort to renovate and rebuild the Peterborough Town Library began in 2011 and is moving forward after nine years of careful planning and community input and support.

"The Peterborough Town Library holds an incredible amount of history and is an invaluable resource for the entire region. I have been completely blown away by the dedication of the 1833 Society, Leo Smith the town finance director, as well as the tireless efforts of Corinne and her staff. It's another fabulous example of how fortunate we all are to call Peterborough home. It's been my honor to play a small part in getting this project to the construction phase. This community effort to bring together a public-private endeavor of this magnitude is another important moment

in the history of The Peterborough Town Library.” said Bill Taylor, Select Board member.

Harvey Construction, Bedford, will oversee the project along with Ann Beha Architects, Boston. Construction will take approximately 15 months.

To view a 3D walkthrough of the design, visit PeterboroughTownLibrary.org/LibraryProject. The historic 1892 portion of the library will be restored and the 1957 and 1978 wings will be demolished and replaced with a sustainable HVAC system, ADA compliant entrances, an elevator, and vastly improved spaces for the public.

“The heroes of this project are the residents, volunteers and generous donors,” said Library Director Corinne Chronopoulos. “The 1833 Society led the effort to raise more than \$5 million in private funds, more than \$830,000 of which was donated by the Library Trustees from their proprietary funds. The Friends of the Library played a vital role, donating \$75,000. In addition, the taxpayers of Peterborough contributed \$3 million as part of the warrant article passed in 2018 with 80% approval. I’m so proud our town supports a public library that creates powerful literacy opportunities, offers access to information as a basic right to all residents, and contributes to the vitality of our community. This is a public building worth investing in for tomorrow.”

The library renovation will be completed parallel to work on the Main Street bridge. Both projects will be coordinated and completed within the next two years.

The library is currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will reopen at a temporary location to be announced soon.

Plans for a virtual goodbye walkthrough are underway. The library pivoted to a virtual platform in March and continues to offer a full slate of online programming, a robust eLibrary collection, and employment and career coaching services. Please visit the library website for full updates on library services.

To learn more about the library project, visit the [project update page](#) or call 924-8045.

Weeks Public Library News

Submitted by Denise Grimse, Library Director

The Trustees and staff are excited to announce that the Weeks Public Library Expansion and Renovation Project finally began after resolving several lengthy legal issues. Just weeks prior to the Governor’s initial Stay at Home order, staff was busy packing up sections of the adult collection to make room for a small collection of children’s materials upstairs. Staff also packed thousands of children’s books for storage along with dismantling the shelving units in the Children’s Room. Luckily, a small moving crew from the local storage unit, Bluebird Storage in Greenland, was willing to work during the stay at home order. The crew moved boxes of books, the

dismantled shelving units, and other big heavy items out of the Children's Room in the basement into large storage unit donated by Bill Goodison of Bluebird Storage. A small collection, closets full of supplies, and the staff work area was all that remained in the basement.

As the movers packed the last of the boxes into the moving van on Monday, April 6, major construction equipment moved on site to begin the ground preparation work. Temporary fencing was set up along the perimeter of the library grounds, trees were taken down, and the driveway between the library and the Parish House was reinforced with crushed stone. One of the challenges to the project had been coordinating cooperation among the three abutting properties—library, Congregational Church, and the Greenland School. On April 7 all parties signed the temporary parking agreement so construction vehicles could move safely around the Parish House and park and store materials with minimal impact on the neighbor. And, on April 8 construction officially began!

Two days later, because the library was closed due to the coronavirus, the construction team and the Library Director, agreed to accelerate the project schedule by completely removing all library items from the basement and starting work there. So after a few days off from packing, staff was at it again to prepare the basement for the demolition team. Gratefully the moving crew returned and made quick work of the remaining boxes and odd shaped furnishings moving them into a second storage unit also donated by Mr. Goodison of Bluebird Storage.

Utility and septic work was ongoing outside while work in the basement began. The concrete cutters arrives to cut the basement floor for the plumbing, create openings in the wall for the utility lines, and frame out the future entrance from the expansion. The septic system is now complete, inspected and approved. The septic area is being buried and compacted in preparation for the future parking area. Out back foundation trenches were dug and the first footing pour is happening today just hours from now.

Project updates can be found on the library's website, www.weekslibrary.org under the Project Updates tab. Fundraising efforts continue during the construction process. The Friends of the Library's "Bookmarking Our Future" Campaign is still accepting pledges and donations. Information on the campaign can be found on the library's website, <https://weekslibrary.org/campaign/>

It goes without saying how much the library trustees, town personnel, and library staff appreciate the ongoing cooperation that has come about to keep the library project moving forward.

State Library resources

Reference Librarian Rebecca Stockbridge reports that the **NH State Library** has created a resource guide on researching your NH family history online from home:

https://www.nh.gov/nhsl/services/public/NH_Genealogy_Online_Research.html

There are many online resources you can access to work on your NH genealogy research from the comfort of your own home, when our library building is closed. We compiled some examples of commonly used print or microfilm resources in our library that you can also access in a digitized format online. Happy searching!

[NH State Library reference services](#)

Just a reminder that the **NH State Library's reference librarians** are working from home due to the coronavirus pandemic, but our "Ask a Librarian" email service remains open and we are answering phone calls! Although we aren't currently able to access our print or microfilm collections, we do have access to online resources. You or your patrons can submit NH related reference question at: <https://www.nh.gov/nhsl/ask/> or give us a call at 603-271-2144.

NHLA COVID-19 Resource Page for NH Librarians

<http://nhlibrarians.org/covid-19-resources/>

This resource is a joint effort between the NH State Library and the New Hampshire Library Association to provide a clearinghouse-webpage for necessary resources for New Hampshire public libraries and the communities they serve during the pandemic.

For more information, please contact Lori Fisher, Assistant State Librarian, NH State Library (271-2393).

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Submit articles to Deborah Dutcher by the first Friday of the month.

Report errors to Bobbi Lee Slossar.

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